

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-25 and 36-44 were previously withdrawn from further consideration; and the Examiner presently withdraws claims 29, 31, 34 and 35 from further consideration. Claims 1-29 and 31-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 26 is amended.

Applicant acknowledges the October 30, 2007, telephone interview Examiner Goff held with Applicant's representative, Richard J. Kim. The substance of the telephone interview is incorporated in the remarks below.

In numbered paragraph 4, pages 2-4 of the final Office Action, independent claim 26, along with various dependent claims, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,024,525 to Yamanaka, hereinafter Yamanaka, in view of U.S. Application Publication No. 2001/0019691 to Boss, hereinafter Boss. In numbered paragraph 5, page 5 of the final Office Action, dependent claims 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yamanaka patent and the Boss publication, and further in view of U.S. 2002/0064437 to Kuramoto et al. (Kuramoto et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has disclosed methods of binding an assembly of plural sheets to form a book-like structure. As exemplified in Figs. 3A-3D, in one exemplary method, a leading edge 328, 330 is adapted to contact a protruding end portion 308 of a backed hot melt adhesive sheet 302, and to redirect the protruding end portion 308 toward the plane surface 310 (e.g., paragraph [0036]). The leading edge 328, 330 of the clamping jaw 320 can be rounded, chamfered, equipped with guide elements or

otherwise suitably configured to contact and slide along the surface 332 of the protruding end portion 308 (e.g., paragraph [0036]). Further, as exemplified in Figs. 3A-3D, the leading edge 328, 330 is shown offset in angle from generally the perpendicular angles as shown.

The exemplary method 300 includes absorbing heat from a hot melt adhesive into at least a portion of the clamping jaw 320. Absorbing heat includes actively removing heat from the hot melt adhesive (e.g., paragraph [0038]). Absorbing heat solidifies or cures the hot melt adhesive of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet 302 (e.g., paragraph [0038]).

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 26. Claim 26 recites, among other features, actively withdrawing heat from the backed hot melt adhesive sheet to bring a temperature of a hot melt adhesive of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet from above a glass transition temperature of the hot melt adhesive to below the glass transition temperature of the hot melt adhesive, wherein at least the translatable first contacting surface has an angled leading edge adapted to contact a protruding end portion of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet at an offset angle.

On page 6 of the final Office Action, a Response to Arguments is provided in which the Examiner asserts that "the translatable first contacting surface (702 of Figure 1) taught by Yamanaka has a leading edge, i.e., first contacting edge of the first contacting surface, suited, i.e., adapted, to contact the protruding end portion of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet." Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's ultimate conclusion.

As discussed with the Examiner during the interview, the Yamanaka patent would not have taught or suggested at least the translatable first contacting surface

having an angled leading edge adapted to contact a protruding end portion of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet at an offset angle, at least for the following reasons:

- The side heater 702 as disclosed by the Yamanaka patent does not constitute a leading edge which is distinguishable from a translatable first contacting surface; and
- Even if the side heater 702 is considered to be a leading edge, the side heater 702 is shown in Fig. 1 as being of a perpendicular angle.

The Boss publication does not cure the deficiencies of the Yamanaka patent. The Examiner applied the Boss publication for its disclosure of a heat sink 30, which is unrelated to the claimed leading edge.

Even if considered in combination, the Yamanaka patent, the Boss publication and/or the Kuramoto et al. publication, considered individually or in combination as suggested by the Examiner:

- Would not have taught or suggested at least the claimed features as recited in claim 26;
- One skilled in the art would not have been motivated to use the relatively large heat sink 30 in Boss to modify Yamanaka, because the large size of heat sink 30 would be detrimental to Yamanaka's disclosed device; and
- The various combinations would not have resulted in the claimed feature of actively withdrawing heat from the backed hot melt adhesive sheet to bring a temperature of a hot melt adhesive of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet from above a glass transition temperature of the hot melt adhesive to below the glass transition temperature of the hot

melt adhesive, wherein at least the translatable first contacting surface has an angled leading edge adapted to contact a protruding end portion of the backed hot melt adhesive sheet at an offset angle, as recited in claim 26.

For at least those reasons, Claim 26 is not obvious and is allowable. Dependent claims 27, 28, 32 and 33 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from Claim 26.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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